Claims

1. A method of disease prognosis which involves determining the genotype of a human or non-human mammal subject for at least one Fc receptor, and identifying whether the determined genotype corresponds to a benign or non-benign prognosis for a disease selected from multiple sclerosis, myasthenia gravis, diabetes mellitus, cerebrovascular and cardiovascular diseases, atherosclerosis, and Addison's disease.

2. A method of prophylaxis or therapy of a human or non-human mammal subject to combat a disease selected from multiple sclerosis, myasthenia gravis, diabetes mellitus, cerebrovascular and cardiovascular diseases, atherosclerosis, and Addison's disease which method comprises determining the genotype of said subject for at least one Fc receptor, identifying whether the determined genotype corresponds to a benign or non-benign prognosis for said disease, and, where said determined genotype corresponds to a non-benign prognosis, carrying out a diagnostic imaging procedure on said subject, carrying out surgical intervention on said subject, or administering a prophylactically or therapeutically effective amount of a material prophylactically or therapeutically effective against said disease to said subject.

3. A method of disease prognosis for a disease selected from multiple sclerosis, myasthenia gravis, diabetes mellitus, cerebrovascular and cardiovascular diseases, atherosclerosis, and Addison's disease which comprises determining the presence or absence of a genetic marker for susceptibility to said disease in the DNA of a human or non-human animal subject and determining the genotype of said subject for at least one Fc receptor, and identifying whether the determined

genotype corresponds to a benign or non-benign prognosis for said selected disease.

4. A method as claimed in claim 3 also involving administering a prophylactally or therapeutically effective amount of a material prophylactally or therapeutically effective against said selected disease to said subject where said marker is present and said genotype corresponds to a non-benign prognosis.

5. A diagnostic assay comprising obtaining a sample of DNA from a human or non-human mammal subject and identifying the genotype of that DNA for a Fc receptor and optionally identifying the presence or absence in that DNA of a genetic marker for susceptibility to a disease selected from multiple sclerosis, myasthenia gravis, diabetes mellitus, cerebrovascular and cardiovascular diseases, atherosclerosis, and Addison's disease.

6. The use of an FcR allele-specific binder for the manufacture of a composition for use in a method of prognosis, prophylaxis or therapy as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4.

7. A method, use or a diagnostic assay as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein said Fc receptor is an FcγR receptor.

8. A method, use or a diagnostic assay as claimed in claim 7 wherein said FcγR receptor is FcγR RIIA and/or FcγR RIIIB.

9. A method, use or diagnostic assay as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8 wherein for multiple sclerosis FcγRIIIB NA1/NA1 and FcγRIIA H/H, together or separately are indicative of a benign prognosis.

10. A method, use or diagnostic assay as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8 wherein for myasthenia gravis FcγRIIIB NA1/NA1 is indicative of a non-benign prognosis and R/R + NA2/NA2 is indicative of a benign prognosis.

11. A method, use or diagnostic assay as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8 wherein for diabetes mellitus FcγRIIIB NA1/NA1 and/or FcγRIIA H/H is indicative of a non-benign prognosis.

12. A method, use or diagnostic assay as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8 where for atherosclerosis and cardiovascular or cerebrovascular disease FcγRIIIB NA2/NA2 is indicative of a non-benign prognosis.

13. A method, use or diagnostic assay as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8 wherein for Addison's disease FcγRIIA H/H is indicative of a non-benign prognosis.

14. A prognostic kit comprising at least one FcR allele-specific binder and instructions for the performance of a method of prognosis, prophylaxis or therapy as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 and 7 to 13.